

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070760
ORIGIN SS-25

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EUR/SE:RCEWING
EUR:REBARBOUR
C:RFHOPPER
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT:GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON COUNSELOR MARCH 16

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON COUNSELOR
NIMETZ MARCH 16 TO PROVIDE GREEK VERSION OF THE MONTREUX
MEETING BETWEEN KARAMANLIS AND ECEVIT. ALEXANDRAKIS READ
FROM MESSAGE HE HAD RECEIVED FROM ATHENS WHICH APPEARED TO
BE EXTENT OF INFO HIS EMBASSY HAD LEARNED ABOUT THE SUMMIT.

2. CONTINENTAL SHELF - ECEVIT HAD GIVEN INITIAL IMPRESS-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 070760

ION HE DESIRED TO REACH SOME BROAD UNDERSTANDING ON THIS
ISSUE DURING COURSE OF MEETINGS, BUT IT SOON BECAME
APPARENT THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES ON BOTH SUB-
STANCE AND PROCEDURES. KARAMANLIS TOLD ECEVIT THAT GREECE
AND TURKEY SHOULD WORK TO NEGOTIATE THE SHELF PROBLEM IN
ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.
AS THIS WAS BEING DONE, EACH SIDE SHOULD PLEDGE TO AVOID

PROVOCATIONS. IN CASE THESE TALKS WERE NOT FRUITFUL, THE QUESTION WOULD BE SUBMITTED EITHER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OR TO SOME ALTERNATIVE THIRD PARTY ARBITRATION. ECEVIT COUNTERED THIS VIEW BY STATING PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED ON BASIS POLITICAL DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. ECEVIT WAS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT SOME FORM OF ARBITRATION.

3. AIR SPACE - KARAMANLIS HAD PROPOSED THE LIFTING OF NOTAM 714 AND THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF CIVILIAN AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE AEGEAN. THE QUESTION OF MILITARY FLIGHTS COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO ALEXANDRAKIS, ECEVIT HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT POSITIVE ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL IN THE MORNING SESSION, BUT BACKED OFF IN THE AFTERNOON.

4. FORTIFICATION OF THE ISLANDS. THE TURKS RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE MILITARIZATION OF CERTAIN AEGEAN ISLANDS AND INDICATED THAT IT REPRESENTED A CONTRAVENTION OF EXISTING TREATIES. KARAMANLIS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ISLANDS HAD BEEN FORTIFIED IN AN ELEMENTARY WAY FOR THE STRICT PURPOSE OF SELF-DEFENSE. BUT THAT DEFENSE IS AN INHERENT RIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY RECOGNIZED EVEN IN THE LAUSANNE TREATY. KARAMANLIS INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WHEN OTHER GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST HAD BEEN RECONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 070760

STORED TO THE AREA.

5. CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO ALEXANDRAKIS, THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS DID NOT GET INTO ANY OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. KARAMANLIS STRESSED THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE FOR THE TWO COMMUNITIES TO RESOLVE BETWEEN THEMSELVES, BUT THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY COULD LEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE ALONG THE WAY. ALTHOUGH ECEVIT RECONFIRMED THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED, THERE WAS NO INDICATION AS TO THE TIMING OR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS. KARAMANLIS HAD INDICATED HE WOULD BE WILLING TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO FEND OFF THE GREEK-CYPRIOT'S REJECTING THE PROPOSALS OUT-OF-HAND, IF THE PROPOSALS WERE MODERATE. ALEXANDRAKIS TOLD NIMETZ THAT KARAMANLIS CAME AWAY FROM MONTREUX BELIEVING THAT THE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE SATISFACTORY.

6. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT KARAMANLIS WAS SATISFIED WITH THE TALKS AND, AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY AGREED, THERE HAD BEEN NO DECISIONS ON SUBSTANCE. IT WAS THE FEELING IN HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE MEETINGS HAD BEEN USEFUL IN GETTING THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS ACQUAINTED. ALEXANDRAKIS

STRESSED THAT FURTHER TALKS ARE FORESEEN ALTHOUGH THE EXACT TIMING HAS NOT YET BEEN SET. THE AMBASSADOR OFFERED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE TALKS AT LEAST HAD NOT SET BACK THE STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, BUT THAT THE TURKS REALLY HAD NOT BUDGED ON ANY ISSUE AND THE GREEKS WERE STILL LOOKING FOR DEEDS RATHER THAN MORE WORDS.

7. NIMETZ THANKED ALEXANDRAKIS FOR THE INFORMATION AND

NOTED THAT IT WAS USEFUL THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTERS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLICLY STATED THAT A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE HAD PREVAILED AT THE MEETINGS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM ALEXANDRAKIS, NIMETZ INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED FROM TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL A TURKISH RE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 070760

ACTION TO THE SUMMIT, BUT WE HAVE HEARD THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN ANKARA THAT THE TURKS HAD CHARACTERIZED THE MEETINGS IN POSITIVE TERMS.

8. ALEXANDRAKIS THEN TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND ASKED NIMETZ IF A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO PUSH THE AGREEMENT IN THE CONGRESS. IF NOT, WHAT CONSIDERATIONS WOULD THE US TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING ITS DECISION.

9. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT NO DECISION HAS AS YET BEEN TAKEN BUT THAT CERTAINLY WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT OUR INDIVIDUAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AT THE STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, AT THE CYPRUS SITUATION, AT NATO CONSIDERATIONS, AND OF COURSE WE WOULD TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE US IN THE AREA. ALEXANDRAKIS WARNED THAT THERE WOULD BE A VERY ADVERSE REACTION IN CYPRUS AND GREECE IF THE DECISION WAS MADE TO PUSH THE TURKISH DCA. NIMETZ CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY OBSERVING THAT WE WERE WELL AWARE THAT THERE WAS BOUND TO BE UNHAPPINESS IN SOME PART OF THE AREA NO MATTER HOW WE PROCEEDED. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 070760

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S-O:MVKENNEDY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070760

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 070760 ACTION THEN INFO NICOSIA

USNATO LONDON COPENHAGEN 19 MAR 78

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070760

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PAGE 02 STATE 070760

2. CONTINENTAL SHELF - ECEVIT HAD GIVEN INITIAL IMPRESSION HE DESIRED TO REACH SOME BROAD UNDERSTANDING ON THIS ISSUE DURING COURSE OF MEETINGS, BUT IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES ON BOTH SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURES. KARAMANLIS TOLD ECEVIT THAT GREECE AND TURKEY SHOULD WORK TO NEGOTIATE THE SHELF PROBLEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. AS THIS WAS BEING DONE, EACH SIDE SHOULD PLEDGE TO AVOID PROVOCATIONS. IN CASE THESE TALKS WERE NOT FRUITFUL, THE QUESTION WOULD BE SUBMITTED EITHER TO THE INTERNATIONAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 070760

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PAGE 04 STATE 070760

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To: ATHENS
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